IN THE CLAIMS

All pending claims are produced below. Please amend claims 1, 17, 33, 41, 42 and 54 as indicated herein.

1.   (Currently Amended) A traffic manager for facilitating communication in accordance with at least one policy between a client node and a server node wherein the client node and the server node have at least one distinguishing characteristic between them and the at least one distinguishing characteristic includes more than having distinguishing network addresses in a distributed computing environment in accordance with at least one policy, the server node having a first interface associated therewith, the client node having an existing interface associated therewith, the traffic manager capable of communicating with both the client node and the server node and comprising a central processing unit which is operable to:

communicate with the server node via the first interface, wherein the first interface is incompatible with the existing client interface because of the at least one distinguishing characteristic;

generate and publish at least a second interface, for communication with the first interface, in accordance with said the at least one policy, wherein the at least one policy mapping the first interface to the second interface provides a mechanism to bridge the at least one distinguishing characteristic; and

publish the second interface, communicate with the client node via the second interface, thereby allowing the client node to access at least one service on the server node via the traffic manager in accordance with the at least one policy.

2.   (Previously Presented) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the first and second interfaces comprise Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) interfaces.

3.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 2, wherein the SOAP interfaces employ Extensible Markup Language (XML).

4.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 2, wherein each of the first and second interfaces has a description language file associated therewith defining the associated interface.

5.   (Previously Presented) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the first interface includes one of HTTP, TCP, HTTPS, HTTPR, and MQ.

6.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise including the server node, and wherein the client node is external to the network.

7.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise and including both the client and server nodes.

8.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy includes requiring authorization by a human operator for invocation of the at least one service.

9.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy includes mapping an organizational role to a person.

10.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 9, wherein the mapping of the organizational role to the person is done using an LDAP directory associated with the distributed computing environment.

11.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

12.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 11, wherein the security policy is associated with encryption or decryption of at least a portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

13.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 11, wherein the security policy is associated with generating or verifying at least one digital signature for at least one portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

14.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 11, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

15.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second interfaces.

16.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

17.   (Currently Amended) A traffic manager for facilitating communication between a plurality of nodes in a distributed computing environment, each of the nodes having a primary interface associated therewith, the traffic manager comprising a central processing unit which is operable to generate and publish a plurality of intermediate interfaces for communication with one of the primary interfaces, each of the intermediate interfaces being generated according to at least one policy, the at least one policy <u>bridges at least one distinguishing characteristic between the one of the primary interface and another primary interface, wherein the at least one distinguishing characteristic includes more than having distinguishing network addresses</u> ~~mapping the one of the primary interfaces to the intermediate interfaces~~, and allowing each of the nodes to access at least one service on at least one other one of the nodes.

18.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the primary and intermediate interfaces comprise of at least one Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) interface.

19.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 18, wherein the at least one SOAP interface employs Extensible Markup Language (XML).

20.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 18, wherein each of the primary and intermediate interfaces has a description language file associated therewith defining the associated interface.

21.　(Previously Presented)　The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the primary interface includes one of HTTP, TCP, HTTPS, HTTPR, and MQ.

22.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise including the server node and wherein the client node is external to the network.

23.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise and including both the client and server nodes.

24.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy includes requiring authorization by a human operator for invocation of the at least one service.

25.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy includes mapping an organizational role to a person.

26.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 25, wherein the mapping of the organizational role to the person is done using an LDAP directory associated with the distributed computing environment.

27.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

28.　(Original)　The traffic manager of claim 27, wherein the security policy is associated with encryption or decryption of at least a portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

29.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 27, wherein the security policy is associated with generating or verifying at least one digital signature for at least one portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

30.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 27, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

31.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second interfaces.

32.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

33.   (Currently Amended) A traffic manager for facilitating communication in accordance with at least one policy between a client node and a server node wherein the client node and the server node have at least one distinguishing characteristic between them and the at least one distinguishing characteristic includes more than having distinguishing network addresses in a distributed computing environment, the server node having a first SOAP interface associated therewith, the client node having one or more existing interface associated therewith, the traffic manager comprising a central processing unit which is operable to:

      communicate with the server node via the first SOAP interface, wherein the first
            SOAP interface is incompatible with the one or more existing client interface
            because of the at least one distinguishing characteristic;

      generate and publish a second SOAP interface for communication with the first
            SOAP interface according to the at least one policy, wherein the at least one
            policy maps the first SOAP interface to the second SOAP interface provides a
            mechanism to bridge the at least one distinguishing characteristic; and

      publish the second SOAP interface, communicate with the client node via the second
            SOAP interface, thereby allowing the client node to access at least one service
            on the server node in accordance with the at least one policy.

34.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the SOAP interfaces employ Extensible Markup Language (XML).

35.   (Previously Presented) The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein each of the first and second SOAP interfaces has a description language file associated therewith defining the associated interface.

36.   (Previously Presented) The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein each of the first and second SOAP interface includes one of HTTP, TCP, HTTPS, HTTPR, and MQ.

37.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

38.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 37, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

39.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second interfaces.

40.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

41.   (Currently Amended) A traffic manager for facilitating communication between a plurality of nodes in a distributed computing environment, each of the nodes having a primary SOAP interface associated therewith, the traffic manager comprising a central processing unit which is operable to generate and publish a plurality of intermediate SOAP interfaces, for communication with one of the primary SOAP interfaces, each of the intermediate SOAP interfaces being generated according to at least one policy, the at least one policy bridges at least one distinguishing characteristic between the one of the primary interface and another primary interface and the at least one distinguishing characteristic includes more than having distinguishing network addresses ~~mapping the one of the primary~~

~~interfaces to the intermediate interfaces~~, and allowing each of the nodes to access at least one service on at least one other one of the nodes.

42.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of managing traffic between server and client programs, wherein at least one server program and at least one client program have at least one distinguishing characteristic between them and the at least one distinguishing characteristic includes more than having distinguishing network addresses, the method comprising:

identifying a first SOAP interface associated with [[a]] the at least one server program, wherein the first SOAP interface is incompatible with the at least one client program because of the at least one distinguishing characteristic; and

generating at least a second SOAP interface for communication with the first SOAP interface according to at least one policy, wherein the at least one policy ~~mapping the first SOAP interface to the second SOAP interface~~ provides a mechanism to bridge the at least one distinguishing characteristic[[;]] and ~~wherein~~ the at least one client program can use the second SOAP interface to request one or more services.

43.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the method comprises: receiving a SOAP message through the second interface from the client program; and processing the SOAP message in accordance with at least one rule.

44.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy includes requiring authorization by a human operator for invocation of the at least one service.

45.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy includes mapping an organizational role to a person.

46.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the mapping of the organizational role to the person is done using an LDAP directory associated with the distributed computing environment.

47.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

48.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 47, wherein the security policy is associated with encryption or decryption of at least a portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

49.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 47, wherein the security policy is associated with generating or verifying at least one digital signature for at least one portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

50.   (Original) The traffic manager of claim 47, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

51.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second interfaces.

52.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

53.   (Original) A computer readable medium having computer program instructions stored therein for performing the method of claim 42.

54.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating communication between server and client programs, wherein at least one server program and at least one client program have at least one distinguishing characteristic and the at least one distinguishing characteristic includes more than having distinguishing network addresses, the method comprising:

reading a WSDL file associated with a first SOAP interface to the at least one server
program; and

generating at least a second SOAP interface for communication with the first SOAP
interface in accordance with at least one policy, wherein the at least one policy
~~mapping the first SOAP interface to the second SOAP interface~~ provides a
mechanism to bridge the at least one distinguishing characteristic[[;]] and
~~wherein~~ the at least one client program can use the second SOAP interface to request
one or more services.

55.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 54, wherein the method further
comprises:

reading a first UDDI file which lists the first SOAP interface;

generating or publishing a second WSDL file which describes the second SOAP
interface; and

creating or updating at least one UDDI entry associated with the generated or
published WSDL file.

56.   (Original) A computer readable medium having computer program
instructions stored therein for performing the method of claim 54.

57.   (Canceled)